GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2339
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017
PF to Bidi Workers
Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the number of Bidi workers getting benefit of employees Provident Fund (PF) scheme in the country, State/UT-wise;
(b)the details of the mechanism put in place by the Government for ensuring all benefits to the workers under the labour laws;
(c)whether the Government is aware of reported exploitation of workers by officials of EPFOs; and
(d)if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by the Government to check the exploitation of the workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): There are 39,25,053 Bidi Worker member accounts in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) out of which 14,73,413 are contributory members for the wage month March 2017. A statement showing the details of State-wise number of Bidi workers is at Annexure.
(b): The details of action taken by EPFO in respect of defaulting establishments to protect the interest of workers covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952:
(i) Real time default management system has been implemented to minimize default by establishments.
(ii) Action under section 7A of the Act against the defaulting establishments for assessment of dues.
(iii) Action under section 14B of the Act for levying of damages for belated deposit of dues.
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(iv) Action under section 7Q of the Act for levy of interest for belated remittances.
(v) Action for recovery as provided under sections 8B to 8G of the Act.
(vi) Action under section 14 of the Act for filing prosecution against the defaulters before the competent court of law.

(vii) Action under section 406/409 of Indian Penal Code against the employer for non-payment of employees' share of contribution deducted from the wages/salary of the employees but not deposited in the fund.

(c) & (d): Complaints received against EPFO officials are investigated by the vigilance functionaries in EPFO. The following system improvement steps has been taken by EPFO for facilitation of workers:
(i) Separate online compliance complaints related portal has been launched.
(ii) Online grievance/complaint registration on CPGRAMS & EPFiGMS online grievance management portals.
(iii) Improved and reliable service to provide minimum interface with EPFO officials with the help of latest Information Technology.
(iv) Online settlement of member claims for those having UAN with member Aadhaar verified and KYC updation.
(v) Real time monthly updation of member accounts.
(vi) Reducing the time for settlement of death claims within 7 days.
(vii) Settlement of PF claims on the retirement date.
(viii) Monthly Pension payment credited on 1st day of the month.
(ix) Mode of Payment of all dues made only through NEFT.

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